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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/542,114

12/01/2005

Bogdan Bogdanovic

930092-2013

8338

7590 11/23/2007
Frommer Lawrence & Haug
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10151

EXAMINER

DEUBLE, MARK A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3651

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/23/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/542,114

Applicant(s)

BOGDANOVIC, BOGDAN

Examiner

Mark A. Deuble

Art Unit

3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14-23, 25-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 24 and 28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

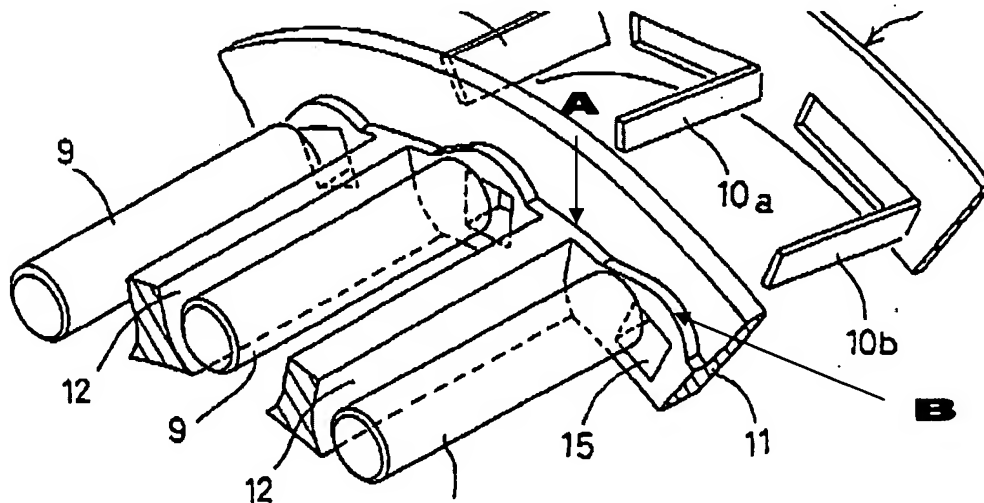
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-12, 14-23 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kurita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,695,031).

Kurita et al. shows a conveyor idler including a drum 1 with outer and an inner surfaces, a shaft 23 about which the drum can rotate in a forward direction, and a locking mechanism 3 that prevents the drum from rotating in a reverse direction while permitting rotation of the drum in the forward direction. The locking mechanism has a plurality of ramped wedging surfaces 6 formed on an outer ring 4 of the locking mechanism. The outer ring is fixed to the drum 1 within an end cap assembly and locking housing receptacle formed by the bearing members 2. A plurality of locking members formed by roller bearings 9 are interposed between each of the wedging surfaces and the shaft. Each locking member is rotatable about the shaft when the drum rotates in the forward direction, but when an attempt is made to rotate the drum in the reverse direction the locking members becomes releasably wedged between the wedging surfaces and a surface 7 of an inner ring member 5 fixed to the shaft, thereby preventing the drum from rotating in the reverse direction. The locking members are connected together by a locking housing formed by a pair of axially spaced end members 11 with circumferentially spaced cages, formed between the end members and axially extending walls 12 extending from

one end member to the other, which rotatably support the locking members so that they are radially movable therein. As can be seen in a portion of Fig. 3 reproduced below, the cages extend radially outwardly beyond a circumference A of the end members at point B.



As can be seen in Fig. 1, the part of the outer ring 4 positioned against the inner surface of the drum 1 forms a reinforcing web extending between the end members. Thus Kurita et al. shows all the structure required by claims 1-12, 14-23 and 25-27.

In response to this argument, the applicant argues that Kurita et al. does not show a locking mechanism for preventing the drum from rotating in a reverse direction because the rolling elements 9 of Kurita et al. are used to transmit movement between outer and inner rings while the rolling elements of the present application are used to prevent movement.

Specifically, the applicant argues that this is not shown because the rolling elements 9 serve to transmit rotation between the outer ring 4 and the inner ring 5 until the rolling elements move toward the wider ends of the wedge like spaces to allow the shaft to freewheel relative to the pulley. While the examiner generally agrees with this description of the operation of Kurita et

al., Kurita et al. is still believed to show all the structure required by the claims because the rolling elements 9 of Kurita allow the drum to rotate relative to the shaft when moved angularly about the shaft in one direction and they prevent the relative movement between the inner and outer rings and the drum and the shaft when the drum is moved angularly about the shaft in the opposite direction. While Kurita et al. discussed this operation in the context of a rotating shaft transmitting motion, all the structure required by the claims is shown because the structure of Kurita et al. would operate in exactly the same fashion as the structure of the present invention when the shaft is not rotating. Motion would be prevented when an attempt is made to rotate the drum in one direction and allowed when the drum is rotated in the opposite direction as is required by the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 13, 24, and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

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CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark A. Deuble whose telephone number is (571) 272-6912. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gene O. Crawford can be reached on (571) 272-6911. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mark A. Deuble
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3651



md